United Nations S/2000/317

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 April 2000
English
Original: French

Letter dated 12 April 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo issued on 12 April 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nuno **Brito**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo issued on 12 April 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union expressed its deep concern at the continuing tension in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and once again urges all parties to the conflict to halt immediately all military activities and respect in full their commitments under the Lusaka Agreement.

The European Union reiterates its strong support for the Lusaka Agreement and stands ready to continue to assist African efforts and to back the United Nations in managing the crisis and in restoring peace and stability to the Democratic Republic of the Congo through political, diplomatic and financial means. In this regard, the European Union recalls its earlier decision to support the Joint Military Commission as well as the facilitating role of former President Katumile Masire.

The European Union stresses, however, that the ultimate responsibility for the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement continues to rest with the Parties themselves, including by assuring that conditions are in place to enable the early deployment of the United Nations Observer Mission.